

Executive Registry

76-7178

26 February 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director

FROM : Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : The Congressional Budget Committees and
the Congressional Budget Office

1. The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 established separate budget committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives and a Congressional Budget Office. It also set out very precise procedures which the Congress must follow beginning with the budget for fiscal year 1977.

2. The basic purpose of the Act is to provide new budget procedures for the establishment of congressional spending and revenue "targets" and, ultimately, "ceilings" for the next fiscal year within a tight timetable. An important part of this process is the allocation of budget authority and outlays among appropriate committees and subcommittees, thus establishing guidelines for their subsequent legislative actions. In other words, to establish firm ceilings on total appropriations based on a considered allocation of needs and resources. The jurisdiction of the committees, covering as it does "all appropriations" procedures, provides no explicit or implied exemption for either the CIA budget or that of the intelligence community, if it is determined that CIA or the intelligence community constitute a "major, functional category."

3. As I mentioned in my backup paper for the CFI meeting the other day (Tab A), we have, based on judgments and recommendations of our own Appropriations Committees, the Office of Management and Budget, and the consensus within the Agency, made the judgment that

we would respond to requests from the Budget Committees and the Congressional Budget Office for substantive intelligence briefings on matters within their jurisdiction in the same way that we provide similar briefings to other committees of the Congress. In keeping with the above, we have already given some background foreign intelligence briefings to members of the staff of the Congressional Budget Office. We have, however, deferred any requests where the information sought clearly relates to U.S. intelligence organizations, budget, functions, and operations.

4. It is interesting to note that there are apparently no Executive Branch guidelines as to how far Executive departments and agencies should go in cooperating with the Congressional Budget Committees, but the basic philosophy has been one of cooperation. This philosophy was reiterated in the meeting which John Warner and I attended in the White House the other day with Jack Marsh, Mike Duvall, Bill Hyland and others.

5. With respect to requests which we have received from the Budget Committees and the Congressional Budget Office, to date we have received, in addition to several informal telephone calls inquiring about "appropriate clearances for access to sensitive information," the following requests:

Senate Budget Committee

27 February 1975

Andrew Hamilton called to establish a liaison within the Agency. No follow-up.

7 May 1975

OSR, alerted us to an impending visit by Andrew Hamilton to obtain information in connection with Hamilton's Committee assignment. No record of his coming.

STAT

26 November 1975	Letter from Douglas J. Bennett, Staff Director, indicating Thomas A. Dine, the Committee's defense and international affairs specialist, to be in charge of their security system.	
3 February 1976	Jan Eakins talked to [] (OLC) regarding her earlier inquiry about procedures for obtaining clearances for two staffers to review the intelligence budget. It was agreed that policy decisions had to be made and we would take no action until they were.	STAT
19 February 1976	Senator Alan Cranston wrote a letter requesting clearances for Mr. Gross, of the Senate Budget Committee staff, and Mr. Jackson, of his personal staff.	
20 February 1976	Tom Dine requested a compartmented clearance for himself.	
24 February 1976	Mike Joy requested an Agency briefing of the Committee on Soviet and Warsaw Pact budget; Soviet strategic forces; the Central European region forces in Europe; land and air balance in Korea and Soviet naval forces. Briefing is tentatively set for 4 March at 2:00.	

House Budget Committee

6 May 1975	Mike Telson requested a briefing on the energy situation in Mexico and Venezuela. He was briefed on 22 May by [] of OCI.	STAT
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Congressional Budget Office

19 November 1975 Rosemary Minyard requested a briefing on computer systems for their background information in establishing their own system. Briefing was given on 24 November.

2 December 1975 Pamela Vorder Bruegge requested a copy of the Handbook of Economic Statistics for 1975, which was sent to her.

12 January 1976 Pamela Vorder Bruegge requested a copy of USSR Gross National Product Accounts for 1970, which was sent to her.

22 January 1976

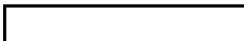


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12 February 1976

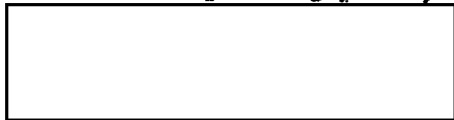
Called Charles Sorrells re his request to Mr. Zellmer for background briefing on Soviet weapons systems and gave permission for intelligence briefing but no budget organization or operations information to be provided.

13 February 1976

 NRO, said the CBO has requested briefings by their office. I told him to hold off pending policy decisions.

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George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Legislative Counsel

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE 26 February 1976

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Director

Attached is the paper that you asked for concerning requests we have received from the two Congressional Budget Committees and the Congressional Budget Office along with some explanatory material that may be helpful.

STAT

George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

*You have
the ORIGINAL*

I-23.1

Attachment

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FORM
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